

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method for protecting a software application ~~claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of~~

choosing a component;

executing said component inside a secure environment;

choosing one or more local metrics;

verifying the one or more metrics and determining a result; and

operating not at all, operating in reduced functionality mode, or reporting the result to a reportee, based on the verification result.

5. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method for protecting a software application ~~claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:~~

choosing a component;

executing said component inside a secure environment;

checking if a required software component is missing, damaged, or has otherwise been altered; and

operating not at all, operating in reduced functional[[I]]ity mode, or reporting the state of said altered component.

6. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method for protecting a software application ~~claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:~~

choosing a component;

executing said component inside a secure environment;

checking for a prohibited software component; and

operating not at all, operating in reduced functionality mode, or reporting the existence of said prohibited component.

7. (Currently amended) A system for protecting software against piracy comprising:

- a processing unit;
- a system memory coupled to the processing unit through a system bus;
- a computer-readable medium coupled to the processing unit through a system bus;
- an operating system executed from the computer-readable medium;
- a secure environment;
- a software application; and
- a component which will execute in the secure environment.

8. (Previously presented) The system claimed in claim 7 further comprising one or more metrics.

9. (Previously presented) The system claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for verifying said metrics.

10. (Previously presented) The system claimed in claim 9 further comprising communication means for reporting said metrics.

11. (Previously presented) The system claimed in claim 9 further comprising means for operating not at all or operating in reduced functionality mode.

12. (Previously presented) The system claimed in claim 10 further comprising means for operating not at all or operating in reduced functionality mode.

13. (Cancelled)